



# WDE Assessment Updates

Volume 2, Issue 27

September 5, 2014

## WDE Assessment Team

-Deb Lindsey-  
777-8753

-Jessica  
Steinbrenner-  
777-8568

-Michelle Carroll-  
777-3618

-Bailey Anthony-  
777-5296

-Pari Swanson-  
777-5292

-Will Donkersgoed-  
777-5133

## Meet Our Staff

**Michelle Carroll** joins the team as one of our new assessment consultants. She joins us from Laramie County Community College where she had served as an instructor and TRIO adviser. She will be working with the ELA content teams on PAWS and SAWS and managing the ETS contract.

**Bailey Anthony** is our new assessment consultant who will be focusing her efforts on the ACT suite of assessments. She will serve as the lead on the ACT contract. Many people have worked with her previously in her administrative assistant role with the assessment division.

**Pari Swanson** will continue her work in alternate assessment, focusing her time on rolling out the new Wyoming Alternate Assessment (Wy-ALT). As the liaison between the assessment and special programs divisions, she will also be planning professional development for the new standards extensions in ELA and math for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

**Jessica Steinbrenner** was promoted this summer from her consultant position to a supervisory position. In this role, she'll be coordinating work across testing contracts and actively participating in planning professional development for each of the assessments.

**Will Donkersgoed** continues to serve as a consultant to the WDE on the NAEP National Assessment of Educational Progress.) He also assists with technical matters on our state's tests.

**Deb Lindsey** continues to lead the assessment division, and she is the primary point of contact linking statewide assessment and accountability issues for districts, the Select Committee on Education Accountability, and others throughout the state.

## 2015 Assessment Calendar

2015 State Assessment Testing Dates	
<b>PAWS</b>	March 2-March 27
<b>SAWS</b>	April 13-May 1
<b>Wyoming ALT*</b>	Feb. 23- March 27
<b>Explore</b>	April 20-May 12
<b>Plan</b>	April 20-May 12
<b>ACT Plus Writing</b>	April 28 <b>make-up</b> May 12
<b>Compass</b>	<b>Fall:</b> Oct. 6-Oct. 24 <b>Spring:</b> April 20-May 12
<b>NAEP</b>	Jan. 26-March 6

\*The Wyoming ALT is our new Alternate Assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Note: The Explore and Plan tests are required for students in grades 9 and 10, respectively.

## Update on Alternate Assessment

On July 1st, the State Board approved a new contract with American Institutes for Research (AIR) to deliver the Spring 2015 and 2016 alternate assessment. The Wyoming Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (Wy-ALT) administration window is Feb. 23-Mar. 27, 2015. Look for resource documents like the *Assessment Overview*, *Key Dates*, *Frequently Asked Questions*, *Test Design* and much more on our website. Please note that the mandatory administration training will take place in January, 2015 in at least 4 locations through the state. We are working to establish locations and exact dates, so watch the newsletter for details. If you have any questions about the new assessment, don't hesitate to contact Pari Swanson, ALT Assessment Consultant, at 324-8122 or email [pari.swanson@wyo.gov](mailto:pari.swanson@wyo.gov).